



THOMAS ANDERSON
SUPERINTENDENT

NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PAUL RODRIGUES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
455 COUNTY STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 02740
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"We are committed to developing a community of learners who are academically proficient, demonstrate strong character and exhibit self-confidence."

KAREN A. TREADUP
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

ANDREW O'LEARY
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT OF
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HEATHER EMSLEY
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
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SONIA WALMSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
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March 16, 2020

Dear Elementary Parents/Guardians,

When surprise school closures happen, educators wonder how to **keep the learning alive**, so students return to school feeling confident. We were planning for this possibility before the closure was announced and appreciate your support with these uncertain times.

Extended periods of time out of school can cause some loss of learning, but it also can provide unique opportunities to learn in different ways. Sometimes days at home are best left unstructured for exploration, creativity and play, but in times of uncertainty it can be helpful for children to have some structure to their days. Many experts recommend adults help children to spend time doing a variety of activities when they are home for many days at a time. Those activities might include the following:

- Active time for movement and exercise
- Reading (child reads, is read to by someone else, or reading is done together)
- Creative play (building, acting/pretend play, drawing, painting)
- Reflection (talking with an adult, writing in a journal)
- Social / Interactive play (board games, card games, songs, riddles)
- Something helpful around the house / chores
- **Grade Specific Learning Activities** (the packets sent from school)
 - **ELA**-directions accompany the packet
 - **Math**-1 to 3 pages per day

In addition, we recommend that students' screen time (video games, television, movies, handheld, cellphone) be monitored, and students continue with regular sleep habits and schedules. We will be posting the learning packets and suggestions for free educational websites on the New Bedford Public Schools Website.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe, healthy and learning.

Sincerely,

Karen Treadup

Deputy Superintendent of Schools